

# MarketsWiki

## *A Commonwealth of Market Knowledge*

### **A New User's Quick Guide to Successful Wiki-ing**

Welcome to MarketsWiki! We're pleased to have your help in creating and maintaining this global information sharing site. Our community of readers and contributors becomes better with every new participant.

You're receiving this guide because you've been set up with a MarketsWiki user account that allows you to contribute to the articles in the wiki. The guide will give you some basic information about how and where to proceed. Working on a wiki is a fun and surprisingly addictive for many people, but it can be a little confusing to figure out how to start without a little help.

### **Once and for all... What the heck is a "wiki", in plain English?**

"Wiki" is fast becoming one of those word-concepts that everybody hears but aren't 100 percent sure of what it is. If you're in that camp, don't despair. Here comes the easy answer.

A wiki is a web site.

Ok, here's a bit more. It's a web site that is normally created to provide information about a topic that interests a group of people. Some wikis talk about classic cars, others about boating or cooking. Many wikis exist to provide details about TV shows and computer games. Companies create wikis so that employees can find and share information about the work that is being done.

Finally, there is one critical part of a wiki that sets it apart from a "regular" web site that has information about something: Community contribution.

Ordinary information sites have a single point of control over what gets displayed. Whoever owns the site puts out the content, and they generally create the content themselves. Sure, they might invite comments, or have a way for you to point out errors and request changes, but all those requests get channeled through the web site admin. It's a very one-way arrangement.

Wiki sites, however, rely heavily on their own readers to create, validate and update the information they contain. If you find errors, you fix them. If you have a new picture or a piece of news about a topic in the wiki, you add them. If you know something about a topic that isn't yet mentioned, you write it! Wiki software caters to this model, providing a simple interface for contributors so that they don't have to be a web designer or HTML expert to add information.

So there you have it. A wiki is a web site for sharing information, where the information is created and edited in large part by a community rather than by a central administrator.

Now let's get going with MarketsWiki, since you're a member of the community!

## **Finishing the account setup process**

As soon as you get a chance, there's a short list of things to do to finish getting your account set up:

1. Point your browser to <http://www.marketswiki.com/> . This will take you to the main page of the wiki.
2. In the upper right corner of the page, there's a link that says:  
**log in / create account**  
Click that, and it will take you to the login box.
3. Log in to your account using the name and password already provided by the MarketsWiki team.
4. In the upper right again, there's another link that says:  
**my preferences**  
Click that to get to the settings for your account.
5. You're welcome to change anything you see on any of these tabs, but right now you have two things to edit. First, in the User Profile section on your screen there's an "email" field. Fill that in with your email address. If you forget your password, the wiki can email you a new one... but only if you've done this step! You can also set up to watch pages in the wiki and receive emails when they change.
6. Then, halfway down the screen is the section, "Change Password". Change that! We've given you a fairly generic password, so it's time to customize it.
7. Got those two things changed? Hit the "Save" button at the bottom of the screen. You will get a notice that your email has to be validated, and shortly after that you'll get an email from the wiki in your inbox. Follow the link provided in that email, and you're all set and ready to go.
8. Now select the "Date and Time" tab in the preferences window. This allows you to set up how you want timestamps displayed. Click the button that says, "Fill in from browser", and then click the "Save" button. This will make sure times are displayed in your local time zone.

The remainder of that "my preferences" screen has lots of parameters to change just about everything having to do with displaying wiki pages. We won't take up any more space discussing it here, but feel free to explore those options, and send us questions if you're having trouble setting up the wiki display the way you want.

## **Sixty seconds of wiki philosophy – do's and don'ts**

Here are some basic, common sense pointers for working in a wiki, and specifically in MarketsWiki. We'll keep it short, but this stuff is worth reading.

- First and foremost, feel free to edit any and every mistake you find, from a typo to a broken reference link to factual errors. **You don't have to ask permission to fix things!** Having said that, please edit for content and not for style. If you'd say something a different way, but the way it's in the article isn't specifically wrong, just let it go. A great way to start a fight between two people is to have them argue over which is a better way to say something.
- Next most important thing: **You don't have to be a professional writer to make wiki articles and add information!** The most important part of growing the wiki is to get the information in there. If you know something, share it! As you contribute, you'll pick up on the standards and style we use, so learn by doing. Everyone does, when they first join a wiki community.

- Don't have 100% complete information? Don't worry about it, add what you have. It's more important to get an article started than to have it complete before you save it. You or others can make it complete later.
- If you write an article and somebody immediately revises, corrects and restructures it, don't get your nose bent! It's a normal part of the wiki process. The MarketsWiki team regularly reorganizes formatting to fit the wiki's standards, and other people in the community will eventually have their own perspectives and knowledge to add. Every article has room for editing and extending, no matter how complete it seems.
- Working on your own company's information pages is a good thing to do. Keep in mind, though, that MarketsWiki pages are there to inform, not to advertise. Describe the products and people and services, but leave the glowing adjectives out of the article.
- Do not ever remove information from a page simply because you don't like it, or you disagree with it. Remove things that are incorrect, not undesirable. You can always edit unpleasant information to render it neutral rather than aggressive – we're striving for accuracy rather than a positive or negative spin – but not all information is happy information.
- MarketsWiki covers the topic of the global financial community. It's a big umbrella to stand under! So if you know anything related to that, feel free to write about it! Companies, products, people in the industry, markets, trading terms, economic principles, trading strategies, market indicators... there is a LOT that can be added.

## **But... what do I DO? Where do I start?**

Sometimes it's a bit hard to know where to start when you first join a wiki, so here are some suggestions.

First, you have two choices: you can add new pages, or you can update pages that already exist (or both, of course). Often, people prefer to start out by updating pages already in the wiki, but either type of activity is helpful.

If you want to update existing pages, here are some places to go:

- From the "Navigation" box, normally found on the left of your screen (if you're still using the default layout), click the "Recent Changes" link. That will give you a list of all the pages that have been recently changed or added. Read some of those new pages. See any typos? References that aren't displaying correctly? Sections that are missing information? Hit that "edit" tab at the top of the page and make changes!
- You can get a list of articles that need a lot of help. From the Navigation box, click "Categories". Then from the category list that appears, select "Articles Needing Information". There are a lot of them! Look over the article titles, and if you see a subject that interests you, bring it up and add something. Remember, all additions both small and big are welcome, so even a sentence here and there is helpful.

- If that fails, try using the “Random Page” link in the Navigation box. It will grab a page at random for you to read. It’s a fun way to surf the contents of the wiki, and you might stumble onto a page that you can update.

Want to add pages? First, a brief word about red links and page creation.

The wiki software shows page links in blue when the page exists, and in red when no page with that name exists in the wiki yet. Unlike an ordinary web site, there are no “broken” links in a wiki that give you a browser error. If you follow a link to a page that doesn’t exist, you’re given a chance to create it. So when we talk about “red links”, it’s a shorthand way to describe links to pages that don’t yet exist.

Any time you click a red link, you’ll get a window with an editing box and several blue-gray topic buttons above it. While you can simply begin typing in the edit box, we recommend that you first click on the topic button that comes closest to describing the subject of your new page (a person, company, etc). When you do that, you’ll load your edit box with some basic starting information to make it easier to get the new page done.

And now, here are some suggestions for what to create:

- Your own user page. When you’re logged in, note that your user name appears at the top of the page, probably in red unless someone has created a biography page in the wiki for you already. Clicking that link takes you to your user’s own page. You are definitely a subject you know something about, so put something in here about yourself.
- Create a page that’s already referenced in other articles. The wiki maintains a list of all those red links. To see that list, find the “Toolbox” sidebar box. Click the “Special Pages” link in that box, and from that list select “Wanted Pages.” Making pages for any of those links will have the double benefit of adding a page to the wiki, and automatically turning all the red links for that page to blue.
- Add a specific topic you want to include. In the search box, type the exact, complete name of the article you want to create, including proper capitalization, and hit “Go.” If the search doesn’t find that article (or an article about the same topic but with a slightly different name), click on the red “create this article” link.
- If you’re not much of a look-through-lists-for-something-to-do person, bring up random pages in the wiki (click “Random Page” in the Navigation box) and see the red links appear as you read articles. If any of them spark your interest, just click the link to start the editor.

## **Have questions? Need more help?**

If you’re looking for more details about wiki page syntax (how to make section headers, bold text, tables, etc.), or page creation standards, tips and tricks or other things, take a look at the Help section of the wiki. From the Navigation box, click the “Help” link to get a list of topics.

If that doesn’t do it, get in touch with us! Email is usually best; send questions and comments to [jonmatte@johnlothian.com](mailto:jonmatte@johnlothian.com) and we’ll help in any way we can.

Again, welcome! Now go edit something!